REMARKS

Informal Matters

A provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1-8 and 11 during a previous telephone conversation. This election is hereby affirmed.

The 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the disclosed amino acid sequence. Therefore, the specification provides an adequate written description of the claimed invention and claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 11 are thus enabled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended as helpfully suggested by the Examiner. Claim 3 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by **Chen** et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite amino acid sequence of TADG-14 protein and high stringency hybridization condition. The amended claim 1 is drawn to a DNA that hybridizes under high stringency and which encodes a TADG-14 protein having at least 80% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No: 7. Specifically, the high stringency refers to DNA hybridization and wash conditions characterized by high temperature and low salt concentration, e.g., wash conditions of 65°C at a salt concentration of approximately 0.1 x SSC, or the functional equivalent thereof. For example, high stringency conditions may include hybridization at about 42°C in the presence of about 50% formamide; a first wash at about 65°C with about 2 x SSC containing 1% SDS; followed by a

second wash at about 65°C with about 0.1 x SSC (see Specification, page 17, lines 9-16).

Chen et al. teaches cloning and characterization of neuropsin, a novel serine protease gene which is expressed in the limbic brain of mice. Although the nucleic acid and amino acid sequences of neuropsin are disclosed, there is no sequence comparison made between neuropsin and TADG-14 protein in **Chen** et al. reference. In contrast, Applicants' invention discloses TADG-14 protein, a novel extracellular protease overexpressed in carcinoma and not present in detectable levels in normal tissues. Alignment of TADG-14 with mouse neuropsin reveals approximately 76% identity for the open reading frame and low homology outside of the open reading frame at the nucleic acid levels (see Specification, page 4, lines 20-21), and 77.2% similarity and 72.2% identity at the amino acid levels for these two genes (see Specification, page 35, lines 18-20). The neuropsin gene still does not anticipate the DNA recited in claim 1, which encodes a TADG-14 protein having at least 80% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No: 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed August 27, 1998. Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, please telephone the attorney of record for immediate resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: 10/1/98

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